Photo — courtesy L.D.S. Church

Waterfall on upper Provo River in Uintah Mountains

took our swim and perhaps arrive there in time to make camp before nightfall'; and so the pioneer explorers returned to the shores of the Great Salt Lake that evening. The next day they continued their journey back to the pioneer camp at Salt Lake. They now had considerable knowledge regarding two of Utah's valleys," the teacher said.

Pioneers exploring Cache Valley

"Mr. Madsen," Linda inquired, "which was the next valley explored by the founders of Utah?"

"The next official exploring trip made by the pioneers took them through Weber and Cache valleys," he replied. "As you recall, Brigham Young and his people had learned from James Bridger that Cache Valley was not so dry and barren as most of the Great Basin region. That part of the country was thought by some of the mountaineers to be the most desirable section in which to build homes. Therefore, the Mormon leader was anxious to get a report on Cache Valley from members of his own group. On August 9, 1847, he sent a small exploring party under the direction of Jesse C. Little to northern Utah.

"'Sam,' Jesse Little suggested to Samuel Brannan, 'although President Young will not consent to take his people to California with you, we who have been appointed to explore Cache Valley would like to travel northward with your group as far as we can.'

"'You are welcome to travel with us as far as you desire,' Brannan replied; and so Little and his companions traveled northward to the Bear River in company with Samuel Brannan, Captain James Brown, and others who were on their way to San Francisco.

"Leaving the California-bound company somewhere near Garland, Utah, the explorers traveled eastward into Cache Valley. Veering southward, they left the valley in the vicinity of Sardine Canyon. Upon reaching Box Elder Creek, they passed out of the mountain range through Brigham City Canyon. And then they returned to Salt Lake City and reported to Brigham Young that Cache Valley was beautiful and would be a good place to establish colonies.

"You remember, class, we learned that the trapper Miles Goodyear built a cabin in Weber Valley. Well, these explorers, while going to and returning from Cache Valley," the teacher remarked, "visited Goodyear's fort, located on the Weber River where Ogden City now stands. Little's report stated:

> 'Near the Weber River we found a fort of Mr. Goodyear which consists of some log buildings and corrals stockaded in with pickets. This man had a herd of cattle, horses and goats. He had a small garden of vegetables, also a few stalks of corn, and although it had been neglected, it looks well, which proved to us that with proper cultivation it would do well.'"

Pioneers exploring Utah Valley

"I used to live in Provo, Mr. Madsen," Sharon remarked, "and so I am interested in learning when the Mormons first explored Utah Valley."

"The mountaineers had not only told the founders of Utah about Cache Valley to the north, but they had also described Timpanogos or Utah Valley, lying south of the Salt Lake Valley, to Brigham and his people. Naturally these frontiersmen were anxious to see that region also.

"And so, Sharon, the fall crops had scarcely been planted when one of the pioneer leaders, Parley P. Pratt, and his companions made a rather complete and thorough tour through Utah Valley," the teacher replied.

"It was during the month of December, 1847, when Parley P. Pratt, Mr. Higbee, and others went to Utah Valley on